AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the Application.

1-50.   (Canceled)

51.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for processing user preferences related to multimedia content consumption, the method comprising:

providing a user description including a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a first parent preference element and a second parent preference element at the same level of the hierarchical structure, the first parent preference element having one or more first child preference elements of the parent preference element, each of the first parent and first child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the first parent preference element in the hierarchical structure includes a first preference condition that specifies a place to which the first parent and first child preference elements apply applies.

52.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein each of the first parent and first child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.

53.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein providing the user description includes receiving user input defining at least a portion of the multimedia preference description in one of the first parent and first child preference elements.

54.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the user description includes a usage history describing events of consuming multimedia content.

55.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein filtering multimedia content includes recommending multimedia content.

56.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the <u>first</u> parent and <u>first</u> child preference elements specifies a multimedia genre.

57.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the <u>first</u> parent and <u>first</u> child preference elements specifies an actor or a director.

58.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein one of the <u>first</u> child preference elements of the <u>first</u> parent preference element includes a further preference condition.

59.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising: updating the user description.

60.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising: storing the user description.

61.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[51]] <u>86</u>, wherein the user description includes a user identifier specifying a name for ~~one or more users~~ <u>at least one user, and wherein the first and second parent preference elements apply for the same at least one user.</u>

62.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for processing user preferences related to multimedia content consumption, the method comprising:

receiving a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a first parent preference element and a second parent preference element at the same level of the hierarchical structure, the first parent preference element having one or more first child preference elements of the parent preference element, each of the first parent and first child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the first parent preference element in the hierarchical structure includes a first preference condition that specifies a first place to which the first parent and first child preference elements apply applies; and

using the first parent preference element to search for or filter multimedia content only at the first place specified by the first preference condition.

63.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 62, wherein each of the first parent and first child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.

64.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein filtering multimedia content includes recommending multimedia content.

65.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 62, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the first parent and first child preference elements specifies a multimedia genre.

66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 62, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the first parent and first child preference elements specifies an actor or a director.

67. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 62, wherein one of the first child preference elements includes a further preference condition.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 62, further comprising: updating the user preference description.

69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 62, further comprising: storing the user preference description.

70. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[62]] 87, wherein the user preference description is associated with a user identifier that includes a name for at least one user, and wherein the first and second parent preference elements apply for the same at least one user.

71. (Currently Amended) A system for processing user preferences related to multimedia content consumption, the system comprising:

a data storage device; and

data processing apparatus configured to perform operations comprising:

providing a user description including a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a first parent preference element and a second parent preference element at the same level of the hierarchical structure, the first parent preference element having one

or more first child preference elements ~~of the parent preference element~~, each of the first parent and first child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the first parent preference element in the hierarchical structure includes a first preference condition specifying a first place to which the first parent and first child preference elements apply ~~applies~~; and

storing the user description in the data storage device.

72.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 71, wherein each of the first parent and first child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.

73.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 71, wherein providing the user description includes receiving user input defining at least a portion of the multimedia preference description in one of the first parent and first child preference elements.

74.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 71, wherein the user description includes a usage history describing events of consuming multimedia content.

75.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 71, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the parent and child preference elements specifies a multimedia genre.

76.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 71, wherein the data processing apparatus is further configured to perform operations comprising:

updating the user description.

77.   (Currently Amended) A system for processing user preferences related to multimedia content consumption, the system comprising:

a data storage device to store a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a first parent preference element and a second parent preference element at the same level of the hierarchical structure, the first parent preference element having one or more first child preference elements of the parent preference element, each of the first parent and first child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the first parent preference element includes a first preference condition specifying a first place to which the parent preference element applies; and

data processing apparatus configured to perform operations comprising:

receiving the user preference description from the data storage device; and

using the first parent preference element to search for or filter multimedia content only at the first place specified by the first preference condition.

78.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 77, wherein each of the first parent and first child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.

79.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 77, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the first parent and first child preference elements specifies a multimedia classification attribute.

80.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 77, wherein the data processing apparatus is further configured to perform operations comprising:

updating the user preference description.

81.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for processing user preferences related to multimedia content consumption, the computer program comprising instructions to cause data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

providing a user description including a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a first parent preference element and a second parent preference element having, the first parent preference element having one or more first child preference elements of the parent preference element, each of the first parent and first child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the first parent preference element in the hierarchical structure includes a first preference condition specifying a first place to which the first parent and first child preference elements apply applies.

82.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 81, wherein each of the first parent and first child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.

83.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 81, wherein the user description includes a usage history describing events of consuming multimedia content.

84.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for processing user preference related to multimedia content consumption, the computer program comprising instructions to cause data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

receiving a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a first parent preference element and a second parent preference element, the first parent preference

element having one or more first child preference elements ~~of the parent preference element~~, each of the first parent and first child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the first parent preference element in the hierarchy includes a first preference condition specifying a first place to which the first parent and first child preference elements apply ~~applies~~; and

using the first parent preference element to search for or filter multimedia content ~~only~~ at the first place specified by the first preference condition.

85. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 84, wherein each of the first parent and first child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.

86. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the second parent preference element includes a second preference condition that specifies a second place to which the second parent preference element applies.

87. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the second parent preference element includes a second preference condition that specifies a second place to which the second parent preference element applies.

88. (New) The system of claim 71, wherein the second parent preference element includes a second preference condition that specifies a second place to which the second parent preference element applies.

89. (New) The system of claim 77, wherein the second parent preference element includes a second preference condition that specifies a second place to which the second

parent preference element applies.

90.   (New) The computer program product of claim 81, wherein the second parent preference element includes a second preference condition that specifies a second place to which the second parent preference element applies.

91.   (New) The computer program product of claim 84, wherein the second parent preference element includes a second preference condition that specifies a second place to which the second parent preference element applies.